

**CITY OF MORGAN HILL
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES – JANUARY 14, 2004**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kennedy called the special meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

Present: Council Members Carr, Chang, Sellers, Tate and Mayor Kennedy

DECLARATION OF POSTING OF AGENDA

City Clerk Torrez certified that the meeting's agenda was duly noticed and posted in accordance with Government Code 54954.2.

SILENT INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

At the invitation of Mayor Kennedy, Einar Anderson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Einar Anderson addressed the need for a new library in Morgan Hill. He thanked Mayor Kennedy, the City Council, and staff for their continued contribution in planning for a new library and for helping in the presentation of proposals at the State level for funding from the Library Bond Act. He said that unfortunately, these efforts have not produced the desired results to date. If the City does not receive an award of funding in the 3rd bond application, the need still remains. He noted that the existing library was built in 1974 and served a population of 7,500. Now, the City has a population of over 42,000 with an expected population of 53,000 in 2020. He did not believe that the existing facility would accommodate future needs. He noted that the current library has 50% of the population with library cards, averaging approximately 1,000 patrons per day. Many times the library is so crowded that you cannot use a computer or find a place to sit. He felt that Morgan Hill will fall behind other cities in the County if the City does not address these needs. He identified the new libraries that have been built within the County and felt that there were ways to achieve the construction of a new library. He requested that the Council explore alternative funding(s) to construct a new library such as reallocation of RDA funds or finding other resources in order to be able to satisfy the need for a new library.

Roger Knopf addressed the library facility and funding for continued library operation and staffing. He said that he has a sense that the City is coming to the issue of needing to prioritize funding sources available for several public facilities. He recommended that the library be the first choice for funding as opposed to some of the other choices before the City. He stated that he has always been a supporter of public education and felt that a community library is an important element of education for all ages. He stated that he strongly supports the construction of a new library. Regarding funding for the operation of a library, whether a new library or an existing library, the County has a tax that will be expiring a year from now. He indicated that the County has placed Measure B on the March 2, 2004 ballot that would provide additional funding over a seven-year period for the continuation of the present tax to support the

operation and staffing at about the current level. If the current tax is not approved for extension in March, the funding source will go away; resulting in the library operating hours decreasing from 54-hours per week to approximately 30-hours per week. This would result in the operation of a new or existing library facility at 55% where the City is today. As the co-chair of the campaign for Measure B with Jeanne Gregg, he invited everyone in the community to a campaign kickoff to be held on Saturday, January 17 at 1 p.m. at the Morgan Hill House.

Jeanne Gregg, chairperson for the Library Commission and co-chair of the tax campaign for Measure B, stated that should the library bond measure not pass, the library's hours would be reduced from 54-hours per week to 30-32 hours per week. She said that this is a big reduction and that it would take a lot of work on everyone's part to get this measure passed. She thanked Mayor Kennedy and Council Member Tate for their sincere regard for the whole issue of the library as they are concerned about the library and want to do whatever is possible to get an improved facility. She stated that she just spoke with Nancy Howe, supervisor of the Morgan Hill Library, who advised her that there is only one library in the entire Morgan Hill School District. Therefore, the City's library serves de facto as a school library. She did not believe that there was enough library service in the school system to teach students how to use data base research. She felt that it was important to realize that the library is not only a recreational facility but serves serious purposes.

No further comments were offered.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Action: *On a motion by Council Member Tate and seconded by Council Member Carr, the City Council unanimously (5-0) **Approved** Consent Calendar Item 1, as follows:*

1. **EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR INTERIM APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF OF POLICE**

Action: ***Authorized** the City Manager to Execute an Agreement in An Amount Not to Exceed \$72,000 for the Appointment of Bruce Cumming as Interim Police Chief.*

FUTURE COUNCIL-INITIATED AGENDA ITEMS

No items were identified.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

MINUTES RECORDED AND PREPARED BY:

IRMA TORREZ, CITY CLERK